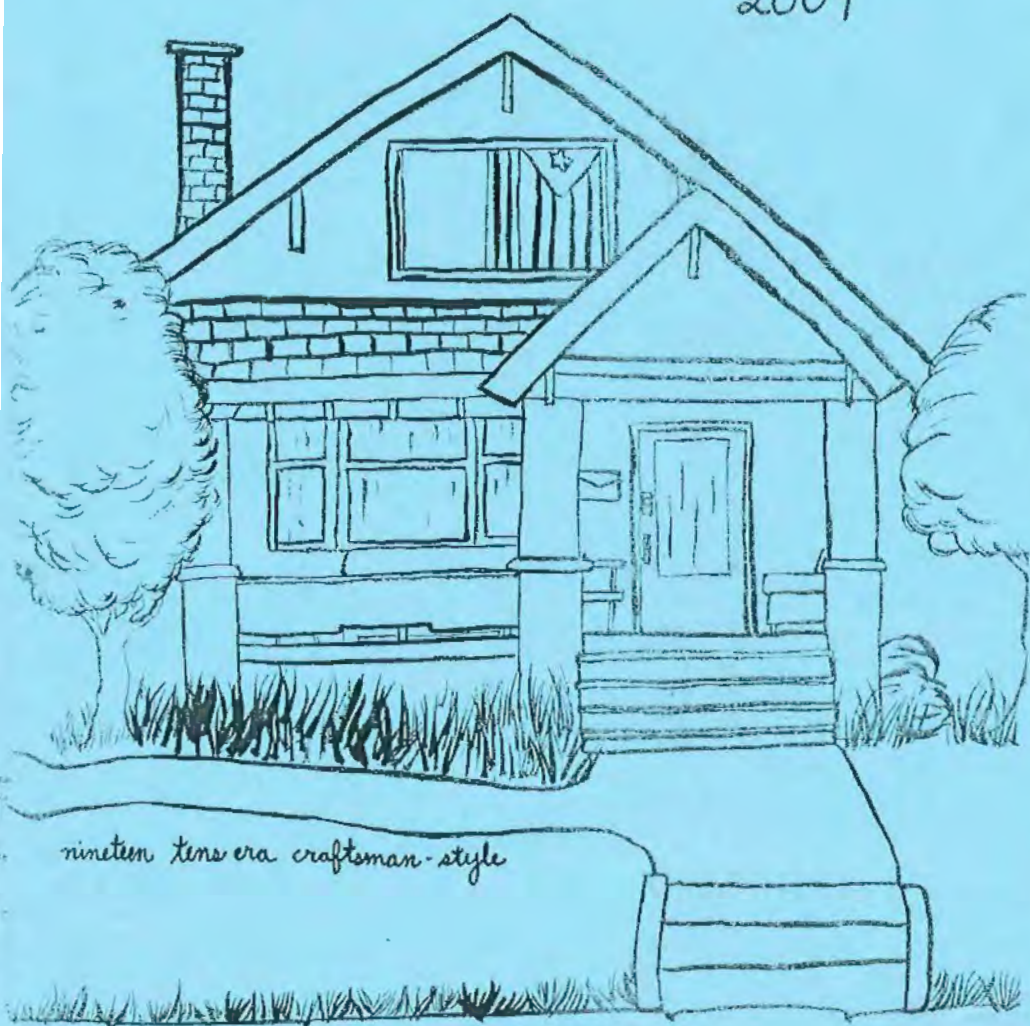


milkyboots nine

late summer and fall
2009



nineteen tens era craftsman-style

Hello friends!

This is the ninth issue of Milkyboots, my diary comics zine. It covers the end of July to November 2009, and includes many amazing hijinks and cat-related anecdotes.

I also should mention that my style changes drastically throughout this zine. I have been taking a comics class, which has both inspired me to try new tools and forced me to do my diary comics more quickly. So sorry about that - but it's all part of improving Milkyboots!

I hope you enjoy it!

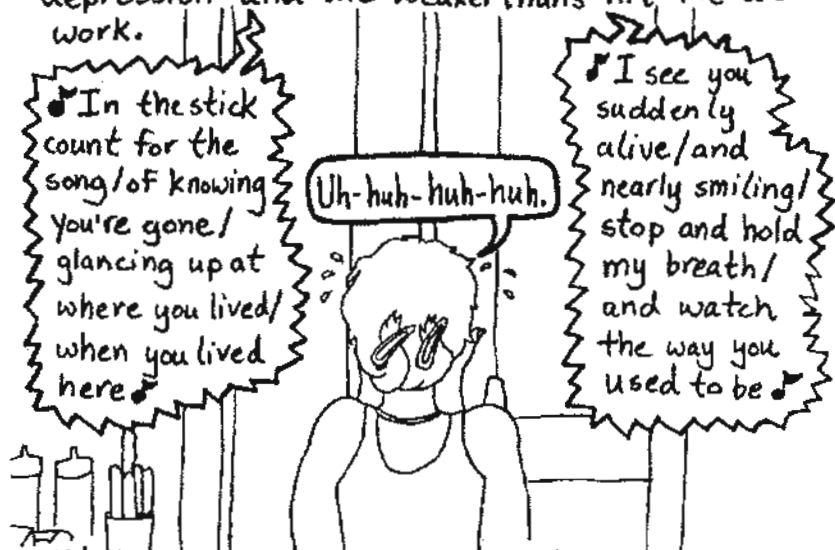
-Virginia

For Olie + Lyra

Printed at the IPRC in Portland, OR



The combination of post-convention depression and the Weakerthans hit me at work.



It's been a long time since I've cried at work. The song made me think of Jen.



I went to meet Patrick
to draw at Fresh Pot.



I overheard some people
gossiping about Paris.

7月28日2009

I came home and
invited people over for
games night.



We played Risk and
Mexican Train.

Then we went to Sloan's
to meet Caroline.



And on to the Bye
and Bye where things got
awkward.



Then Winchel Heartless
and I stayed up until
3 talking about The
Elements of Style.



A friend and I watched
The Lion, the Witch and
the Wardrobe in the
backyard.

I dunno dude-
the story is
pretty
archetypal.

But Lewis was
a theologian!

7月29日2009

Then went to Bye+Bye
and shared drinks.



7月30日2009

You haven't seen my back piece yet. It's this dragon, like, fighting this tiger, and it symbolizes my inner turmoil.

And then, in the middle is like, the Japanese symbol for inner peace to symbolize my, y'know, inner peace.

You haven't seen my Joose tramp stamp.

Joose spelled...?

Yes.

And then I headed on home...

We might go swimming, but we can't decide.

Well, keep me updated.

Yeah, we'll text you, "Still haven't decided."

I really didn't want to work last Thursday but a visit from Mimi and Nat cheered me up.

After work I went to Together Gallery

Dude! That's my purse!

I run

This redneck dude was like, "You're fifty yards behind me, faggot!"

Where some drunk guy kept trying to put his shoes in our bags.

Then went and sat with Keith and Winchel Heartless.

I worked and made a new friend.



Hey dude, how's it going?

Pretty good. Just checking up on that job.

7月31日2009



After work I watched Winchel Heartless play basketball for awhile.

I went to Irum's going away party.



I went camping for the first time!

How was it?

It was weird... but fun.

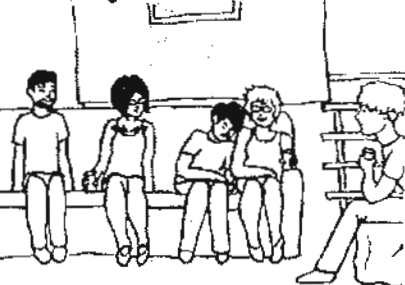
Back home!



Mom and dad are out of town! *

*Translation: John and Rachel went - camping.

So everyone came over!



I think I'm trying
to make myself jaded
so I won't get
hurt anymore.



I worked.

8月1日2009

TXT to Todd: Can you
tell Jesse I'm sorry
but I'm too tired
to ride that far.
Next time!

FROM Todd:
Done and done.

Then was too tired for movie night.



I went up to the Bear Hug
but wasn't feeling it.



I headed home when everyone
started talking about the Blazers.

I went to open the IPRC
but my stair key wouldn't
work.



Luckily someone let me in.

8月2日2009

Don't be
butthead.

Does
anyone
still
say that?



Syd and Somi hung out
while I folded Milkyboots #8.



Then met up with Caroline
and Stormgren at the Bluffs.

Paris was having a party when
we went back to the house.

Hey guys... keep
it down, 'Kay?



And I had the sucky job
of playing mom.

I took my paycheck to the bank and paid rent.

Oh-she did?
Uh-huh. Yeah.
Yeah.

We wish she'd call us when the problem is happening.

Our neighbor called the landlord about our party last night. (Again.)

8月3日2009

I read the new Milkyboots.

Yeah? What'd you think?

I'm only in like, 3 parts.

I ran into Arian on my way to Bridge City Comics.

Jody Booty

... And I think I'm growing a beard.

And then went to meet people at the Bye and Bye.

What are you drinking?!

A Bye & Bye. It's delicious!

I was excited to run into 2 ladies from my temp job.

They got on stage and read from their high school diaries.

But it made me kind of sad I can't work there any more.

We took John to the Bluffs (his first time!).

Red Arian, another blogging friend.

And later I cuddled with Rach at Vendetta.

Woke up at 7 at a friend's house and panicked.

I have to get the fuck outta here.

8月6日2009

I'm moving to Philly on Saturday.

WHAT?!

Back home...

I finally called my old therapist to set up an appointment.

I drove you back to therapy, huh?

Heh heh. Yup.

A bunch of people came over to say bye to John.

Japes

Emily

Arian

Stormgren

John is moving so he can go to med school...

As Japes was leaving...

Love you, John.

Love you Arian.
Love you Emily.



I'm going to miss him a ton. ♡

Love you VJ ... I think I can say that now.

Love you too, Japes.

Yay for making amends!

John got into a school in Chicago.

Now I don't have to move for like 10 days!



8月8日2009

And this'll be your room.

This place is fucking awesome!



I went to look at my new house.

Back home, John, Rach and I played Scrabble.

I killed it with a 49 pt. word!

But John still won.



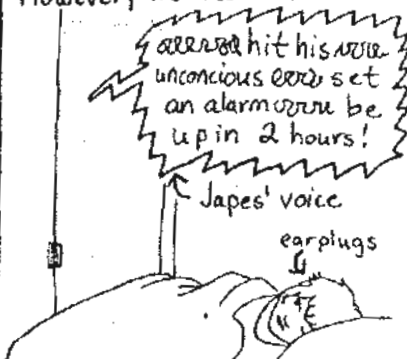
John and Rachel headed to a party in the SE. I decided to stay in.

However, at 4 am...

~~John~~ hit his ~~over~~ unconscious ~~over~~ set an alarm ~~over~~ be up in 2 hours!

Japes' voice

earplugs



What happened?!

John hit a car on his bike. He hit his head really hard!

He might have a concussion!*

So I stayed up and had a beer with Japes.

I gave Milkyboots 8 to my roommate and she said that I was an asshole.

Really? I tried to make you not look like an asshole.

Are we friends yet, Virgie?

Yes. But you're still a ridiculous human being.

*It turned out to be a broken collarbone.



Paris and I made breakfast / lunch together.



8月12日2009

Arian must beat Don Hellions practice.



I think that cute girl is the one who commented on my blog. I wonder why she didn't say hi when she got coffee?

At work...



Hey! Are you Olivia?

...

Yeah.



My housemates and I are going to a barn dance on Friday. Would you wanna go?

Yeah! I've been wanting to go to one!

Is she shaking?! That's adorable!



Hold on...

Did I just get asked on a date?



Olivia and I walked all around Alberta St. getting treats...



breakfast at Vita, a new Micron & coconut water.

9月2日2009

After work I went and played rummy with Olivia and her housemate.



Their neighbors argued throughout the entire game.

We got caught in some weird rain on the way back to my house.

Let's leave the sound of the heat for the sound of the rain 月*



* She told me that the rain reminded her of this song the next day.



彼を見つけたら
いれなきゃ
いけない

I went downtown to help
A.M. set up the IPRL art
show but.

9月3日2009

(Let's try something
different today, shall
we?)

I forgot
to tell
you...

I already
did it!



so I went to Powell's and found Todd.

(he was painting birds)

Then I went to Kayti's and
had a really good convo* about our lives
and relationships. (*fueled by red wine)

I look at you and
where you are at 22
versus where I was
at 22 and you are
so much driven and
focused-directed,
than I was.

Yeah, but I feel
like sometimes
I should be
doing what
you were-
hanging out,
meeting
people...



(We ended up agreeing that ultimately you can't make mistakes.)

I ran into someone from
Louisville when I went back
to the IPRC.

9月3日2009

Cont...

Olivia came & met
me



We went to Pony Club which was too
crowded.

Be sure to let
us know if
we fuck up.

And on to Winchell's
where we discussed
Paris' FB posts...

It said "I
got a half
chub" and
then "See
9 similar
posts!"

(one of
my comics
class
teachers)



Olivia + I walked to the store and I bought hella groceries

9月4日2009

Maybe I'm wiggly
cause I'm so melty
all the time.

(helping
carry,
what
a sweetie!)

Then I cleaned my room
and made tea.

netles:
raspberry
leaf for
my late
20s
hormone
changes



I am trying to be
healthier (sort of)
since I've been busy
the last couple months
and haven't been taking
care of myself.

That night, my friends came over for my house warming
and some porch sitting.

When you get
married, I'm
gonna pee
on the
groom's
face!



Rach

I can be asexual
if I want to be!



Winchel
Heartless

Picture this
we were both
buck naked
bangin' on
the bathroom
floor



Paris

Everyone was in fine form for Olivia's 1st time meeting them.

My throat still hurts - I keep waking up in the middle of the night which also wakes Olivia

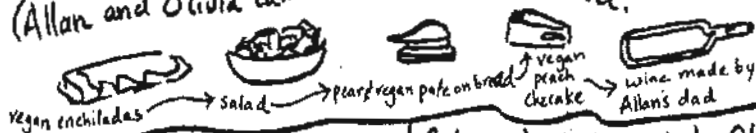
9/20/2009
I worked on my home-work at the IPRC and policed the teen hours.



Are you under 18? I can't let you up if you're 18 or older!



Jill decided to have people over for dinner. I invited Rachel, Stormgren and Winchel Heartless. Dick jokes abound! (Allan and Olivia came too, natch!) We served:



I was really mean to Rachel.

Later, Winchel read to Olie and I from the dictionary. I kept interrupting with critiques.



I mean, I thought it was the "in love with you" look, I just didn't think Rachel was capable of that depth of emotion.



Doesn't it just seem overwritten?

I actually felt okay when I woke up.



Coffee...?

Yes please.

I called my mom & dad while I was cleaning up the backyard.



I... uh... I have a girlfriend.

Is it serious?

???

... yeah, it is.

I knew my parents would be accepting but it still was a hard thing to bring up for some reason...

Olivia left for class and I finished my homework,

9月21日2009

deciding (with roommate Ryan's help) to do a light wash on the character in my gag panel.



Then I went to class.



These are really expressive for the amount of time you had to draw them.

not drunk buddies

... what?

I started not feeling so great again. I think it was the air-conditioning.

I felt like ass this morning so I stopped at work on the way home from Olivia's to talk to my manager



I couldn't get ahold of anyone but my manager saved the day.

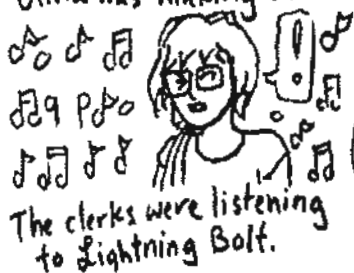
I got your shift covered, so you take care of yourself.
...Thank you...

9/22/2009

Olivia came over, bringing juice and thai soup ramen-y things. We spent the day reading internet comics and facebooking and laying around.



I ran to the video store while Olivia was making dinner.



... a gay tank commander...?

fingering potatoes
w/ garlic butter
smashed radishes
acorn squash
salad

We ate delicious dinner and watched Upright Citizen's Brigade.

I stopped at the co-op on my way home and was disgruntled to find it closed.



(It was 8:45 and the co-op opened at 9.)

I went to work. We were busy-ish because of last Thursday.



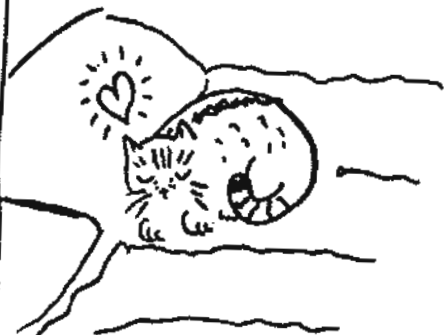
A visit from Winchel was a welcome distraction.

9月24日 2009

At home, Jill was getting ready for work.



When I got home, Olivia and I dragged a mattress up from the basement.



Lyra loves my new bed.

a pretty awesome morning...

"9月25日2009"



Breakfast and
two orgasms?
I must be a
princess.

Oh embarrassing!
All 3 housemates were
home too...

But no one
said anything,
so maybe they
didn't see?



Then we realized we'd left
the door open the whole time.

I helped Olivia move but
was feeling really spacy...



Then we went to the Bluffs
to meet some folks.

I'm Richard
Documents.
Call me
Dic-Doc.



So we went and got coffee
at the oddly sterile Albina
Press.



Portland / Dreamland



I've done a lot of moving around in my adult life.

So I'm familiar with how it feels to leave somewhere. For me, whatever came before becomes a dream. Not even a memory, but something completely unreal. Another life. Maybe even someone else's life. I think things like "I lived in Philly? No, that wasn't me."



My life in Louisville was good.



I was settled.

Then, heartbreak picked a fight with me and won. In 2008 I broke up with my boyfriend of six years, got dumped twice, ~~one~~ one friend died suddenly, another friend attempted suicide, one of my closest friends was killed on her bike and most of my remaining friends moved away.

A couple stalwart friends remained in Louisville, but I became very solitary. Everyone and everything seemed broken and stalled. Finally I decided to take Daniel up on his offer.

Saying this sucked would be an understatement to end understatements.

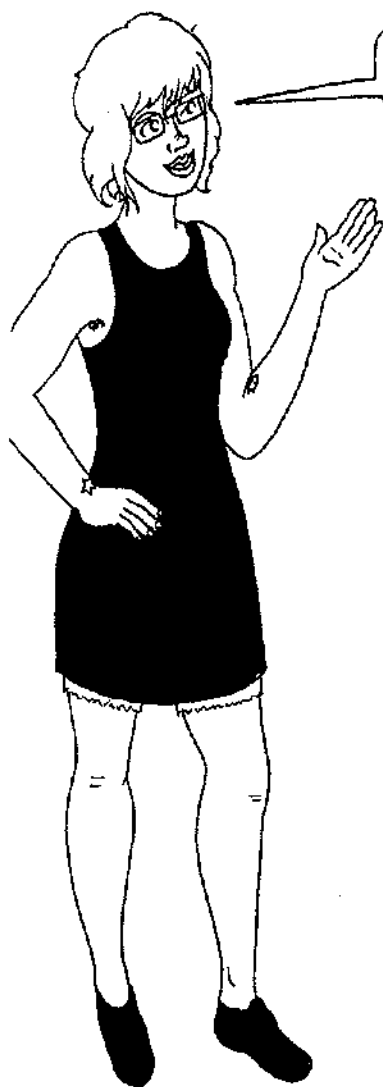


Move to Portland...



... We've got a room.

So I moved. Things started out slowly, but now:



I have three awesome jobs: I do historical research for a graphic novelist; I'm the youth programming coordinator at the **IPRC**, one of my favorite places in the world; and I'm a barista ☕/sandwich maker 🥪 at a small cafe.

My friends are all good-hearted♥ and hilarious folks who provide excellent fodder for my comics.

I've gained a small degree of fame as a comics/zine person. I'm in school for comics and self-publishing.

I live in a huge house with cheap rent and three great, arty roommates, located close to everything.

And I have an amazing, ridiculously cute girlfriend.

So great, actually, that it seems unreal. I find myself thinking:

Just take Vancouver down to Shaver and take a right.

Wait, I live in Portland!



While doing really mundane things.

Louisville still feels real.



It's the masochist in me that says that this is how life should be—hard, painful and lonely.

I've been trying to listen more to the voice that says:

I deserve this.

I've worked hard to be this awesome.

Now instead of asking "What's going to go wrong next?" I ask:

How could things possibly get awesomer?

Let's just hope I don't jinx myself.

Thanks, Portland!

Too drunk to go home last night, so I got up extra early for work.

Deadly deadly doo!
The D deadly deadly do!



After work I got groceries and a new gel pen.

8/10月3日2009
♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡

Need help finding anything?

No thanks.



The lady at Collage thought we were stealing.

We tried to take a nap but were laughing too much.

Can't a girl squeeze her tatas if she wants to?

Hee! Hee! Snort!

Winchel & Jess came over and we decided to have a fire.

We had a little family night around the fire...

I want to win tonight!!!

← Jill's attempt to chop a log.



hot cider, wine, rummy & a movie

I woke up panicked because I hadn't started my home-work



and wen (home despite plans of coffee + bagels.

While I was working on my strip, my old roomie/ex-boyfriend/friend(?) FB messaged me about coming thru on tour.



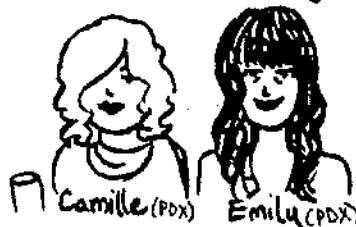
10/5/2009

After considerable outfit difficulties, rode downtown to meet Patrick to draw.



I felt really, really sleepy at Tugboat and during class.

After class, Rachel's goodbye party at the Bye+Bye



Camille (POX)

Emily (POX)



Sarah (Toko)



Lynne (Cleveland)

Was full of folks I haven't seen in a long time!

Emily and I made plans



to link our non-profit jobs...

... and I had a tearful goodbye



with Rachel, who I will miss terribly. ♡

Another fabulous, much needed
gaycation day

10/06/2009



coffee and bagels were
eaten on the porch

We walked to Cherry sprout for
snacks. Dismayed at their lack of
vegan cookies, we headed to Miss A's



If you ever get tired
of me talking about
comic books, just let
me know.

At Fresh Pot, we
got ginger juice
+ thyme iced tea.



Then we headed to the Bluffs for a cute, thrown-
together picnic



complete
with ants!

We were visited by many
dogs, including Pearl!

We ran into Carrot, Which prompted me
to say,

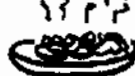


Who sat nearby with
some friends,

What, is this the queer
section of the Bluffs?



Then back to Olivia's
where her housemate
was making vegan
apple crisp!



Thanks, Ellen!
(and Olivia, for the help on
my mini-vacation!)

I got a cold, again, so going to work at the cafe was less than pleasant.



I really shouldn't be making food...

So I made 8,000 espresso drinks instead.



10/10/2009
At home I made hot + sour soup and an anti-cold concoction before getting dressed for the text ball.

All black 'cause I'm the bartender!



Olivia dressed as Huck Finn.

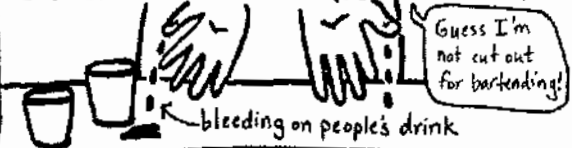


We took the bus to the SE.

I bartended with moral support.



I had some issues with the corkscrew.



But I made really good tips!

Ballin'!



Then back on the bus and to Olivia's house.

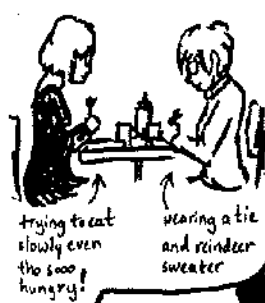


*I woke up to 3 texts from my ex, who I haven't talked to in 6 mos. I had messaged him 3 months ago, but he still does everything on his own terms only. So frustrating.

{ 10/11/2009 }

Olivia and I got breakfast at Vita.

Then I went to meet my comics advisor, Aron. It was kind of funny.



trying to eat slowly even tho sooo hungry!

wearing a tie and reindeer sweater

I don't know what to do next!

Isn't that what I'm supposed to say?

We drew everyone in the coffee shop.



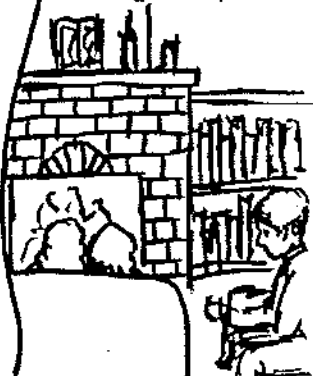
I ate the most ridiculous dinner that was mostly olives.

Olivia came over and we made mulled wine.

We shared it with my housemate Ryan around the fire.



I used a little from each recipe I read. (One big ass bottle of cheap wine, brown sugar, 1/2 an orange, 1/2 a lemon, star anise, 17 cloves, 10 black pepper, nutmeg, cinnamon sticks).



And tried to do more homework.

I woke up at 7:45 and
couldn't get back to
sleep.



So I (quietly) did the
dishes from last night's
dinner party.

*she also got
me a new brush
pen!

At the IPRC, A.M.
gave me a bunch of projects.



10月8日 2009

My advisor Aron came
by to drop off comics.



I finished most of my projects
and started sketching the cover
for the new IPRC catalog.



After work, I made a quick stop at
Olivia's before heading to a super-
awkward bonfire at Carolines.



We left pretty quickly and
read Scott Pilgrim
in bed.



Olivia had a giggle fit
because I kept smashing
my face into her boobs.



Then we made
popcorn and
watched "Son of
Rambow."



What happened yesterday? → 《10月22日2009》
I've been feeling pretty stressed and it was my
day off this week.

Olivia and I
went to the new
vegan bakery on
Alberta.

Which led to stupid
jokes later.

I'm gonna give
you a whoopie
pie!

Not here!
Later,
baby girl!

I got a
whoopie pie

I tried to work
on the homeworks...

My final project is boring.

Winchel Heartless came over.
We read aloud to each other
from a Christian self-help
book for girls.

Jesus became
my 'head'
coach.

Ahahahahaha

haircut!

I finally started reading a library book* I've had for 3 months while getting ready for work.



*The Alphabet vs. The Goddess

10/25/2009

Work was slow at first so my coworker and I tried to do cross words.

It was dark when I got dressed so I accidentally picked 2 plaid.



Heh heh.

I had completely forgotten I had a house guest coming to stay today...



This is Brent, friend of a friend, in PDX to go to the United Bicycle Institute.

Jill started reading the self-help book* while I was drawing.



What the fuck, this is so fucked up!

* Christian self-help book for girls

Then I went to Olivia's & hung out with her and her housemates.

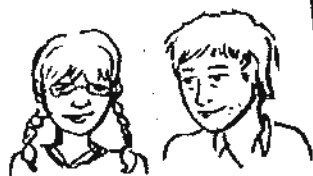


I'm a grown-up. I can eat cookies, popcorn and beer for dinner.

Conversations I have enjoyed in the last week...



I switched days for my co-op shift. I miss working with Dusty & Micki ~



but atleast the coffee was already made.

I was confused by someone else's notes in the herb log.



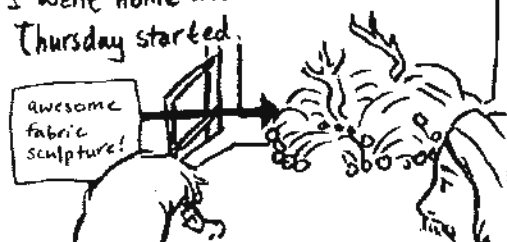
Why is oregano marked "order more"? We have two full bags.

10月29日2009

When I came out someone had stolen my fancy bike light.

Well, there goes half my spending money for the month.

I went home and drew until Last Thursday started.



Then I went to Together Gallery to say hi to Seth.

Sighhh...



Back at my house, Stormgren and I watched a skeleton parade.



Jill's installation was really cool.



I've been feeling unfocused and overwhelmed and 1st Thursdays give me weird anxiety, but I headed downtown anyway.



The Broadway Bridge was up for the first time since I moved here.

11月5日2009



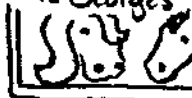
The ship on the river was HUGE.

After I crossed the Bridge I ran into Kayti and Daniel helping a biker who'd hit a car. Hey!



Well, that was traumatic. I continued onto Nicole Georges' art opening.

Oh, the potluck is next week ... but these are still good!



I brought cookies cause I thought it was a potluck.

After the opening, I went to Daniel and Kayti's for a bit.



Have your roommates said anything about when you left the door open?

Nope.



Thank God!

It was actually nice out for Olivia and I's big grocery shopping day.



We went to Cherry Sprout and the co-op.

So we ran to New Seasons...



made and ate our snack before heading to Winchells.

It was raining on our way home but we were singin' anyway.

Or the way the back lane came alive/half moon whispered go!

KEITH

Afterwards I went home to draw for a bit.

8/11/09
O O O O O



The SEPTA logo looked like this...

Olivia came over to make guaca mole but...



All the avocados are rotten!

Keith and others came over too. Keith was eating convenience store burritos.



I just put a lot of sauce on 'em so I can't taste 'em.



My hours have been cut at the cafe, putting me in a distressingly familiar position:

Pretty
much
broke.

At least I
get to see
my fav.
coworker
with my new hours.

Back home. Jill's b-day
potluck was just getting started. I made
a cake and started drinking wine.

We got so
much wine!

Lots of people came over...

Festwich!

Fish which?

Fish witch
witch?

h)

Olivier

Storngren

The Inventor and I started
a fire

You seem
really happy

I am!

And S.M. brought out the cake.

What time is it?

It's only
7:40!

We're out of wine!

And things quickly devolved from there.

UHRNN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JILL!

My continuing struggle with what to wear...



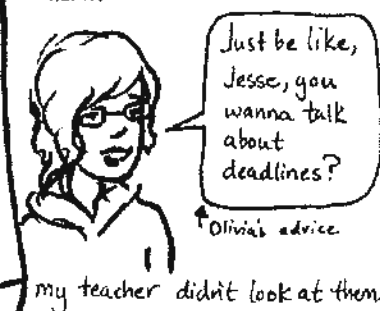
Lyra spent the whole afternoon on the bed with Olivia, who was looking up trees.



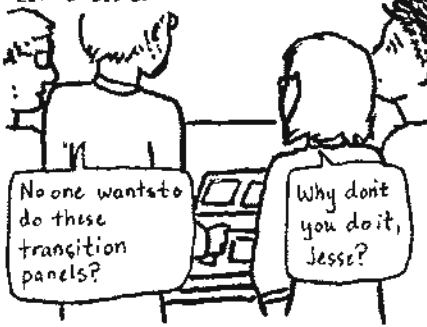
My final project pencils are due today but I ran out of bristol -



I didn't finish but it didn't matter...



In class, we worked on our collaborative comic "Job Quest."



Then I fell asleep watching "Spirited Away."



My name is Virginia. I was born and raised in Wisconsin. I moved to Portland from Kentucky almost a year ago. I feel weird about writing bios.

Contact me! vlpaine@yahoo.com

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